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Public Health Department

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE

West Lancashire Rural District

DURING THE YEAR

1948

BY

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WIGAN:
E. SIDEBOTHAM, 25/27, WIEND

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WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1948.

Chairman ..... F. V. KING
Vice-Chairman ..... CHAS. F. KUHL

Aintree	Arthur Davenhill, J.P. B. J. Moss.
Altcar	Stanley Ashcroft.
Aughton	Arthur C. Roodhouse, J.P. John Leigh. P. Dodgson Kennedy.
Bickerstaffe	James Heyes. John Stockley.
Bispham	T. J. Glover.
Downholland	Job Sumner.
Ford	Patrick J. Reilly.
Halsall	John P. Cropper. H. J. L. Neale.
Hesketh-with-Becconsall ...	Herbert Parkinson, J.P.
Ince Blundell	Chas. F. Kuhl.
Lydiate	Wm. H. Evans.
Maghull	Samuel H. Hudson. H. Stafford Moreton, J.P. A. W. Glenn. J. Cain. Mrs. B. E. Long. Mrs. W. M. Mitchell.
Melling	Thomas Sergeant.
Netherton	E. M. Houghton, J.P. F. V. King. George Halliwell.
North Meols	J. Sharrock. J. Taylor.
Rufford	Harvey Haigh.
Scarisbrick	James Sephton. John Rimmer.
Sefton	F. W. Preston. J. Alfred Birch.
Simonswood	R. E. Gregson.
Tarleton	John Hunter. Rev. L. N. Forse.
Thornton	Ernest Letter. Reginald Phillips.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. John Leigh - - - - Chairman

Mr. A. W. Glenn - - - Vice-Chairman

All Members of the Council.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H:

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat Inspectors.

James Ainsworth, Chief Inspector

R. W. Bingham.

J. Hailwood.

Housing Survey Assistants

James Bell.

F. Pennington.

Clerical Staff.

Miss B. Snelgrove (Resigned 13th December, 1948).

Miss D. K. McCarthy.

All are whole-time officials.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Health of the West Lancashire Rural District.

On the 5th July, 1948, several new Acts of Social Legislation came into effect, of which one was The National Health Service Act, 1946, which provides a full Medical Service without personal cost to all who care to avail themselves of it. This includes the services of the Family Doctor and Hospital facilities. The Act also requires Local Health Authorities, that is the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs to provide a number of Medical Services, some of which have been taken from District Councils. Thus the Rural District Council has lost control of its Diphtheria Immunisation Service which it has provided with notable effect since 1932. We have handed over this Service in a most healthy state in that apprximately 60 per cent. of all children in the Rural District are already immunised. Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are being continued as before by the County Council and the figures for the Rural District are available and will be found elsewhere in this Report.

The other Service which the Rural District has lost is the provision of Accommodation for Infectious Diseases and Ambulance Provision. The West Lancashire Isolation Hospital has already been closed down and Infectious Disease cases were accommodated in the Hospital of another Authority. This arrangement continues but the Rural District Council is not now called upon to bear the cost of each patient's upkeep. The Infectious Disease Ambulance maintained by the Council has been taken over by the County Council and is now part of the complete Ambulance Service operated by them.

On the other hand a Divisional Health Committee with Headquarters in Ormskirk has been formed to administer the County Health Services in the West Lancashire Area including Maternity and Child Welfare Services, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Home Helps, Immunisation and Vaccination, and Ambulance Services. The West Lancashire Rural District Council has four representatives on this Committee and thus has a direct interest and voice in the day to day control of all these Services.

It is too early yet to pass comment on the effect and scope of the Medical Services under the new regime, but it is hoped that some of the early difficulties which have been noted so far are only birth pangs.

The entry of the New Health Services has been helped by a good year in which the incidence of infection and disease has been low. The general health throughout the Rural District has remained satisfactory. Although the Birth Rate has fallen somewhat the Death Rate has also fallen. The Infant Mortality Rate at 32 per thousand births continues at a low level and perhaps the most satisfactory of all, the Maternal Mortality Rate was nil.

I should again like to thank all the Members of the Health Committee for their ready interest in everything concerning the Health of West Lancashire and the Members of the Staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

July, 1949. J. G. HAILWOOD.

Section A.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR 1948.

	1948	1947
Area of the District (acres)	67,560	67,560
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	44,010	41,470
No. of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	12,510	12,128
Rateable Value	£266,987	£259,915
Sums represented by a Penny Rate ...	£1,081	£1,044
Births	708	787
Deaths	421	430

BIRTHS.

There were 708 births recorded during the year, of which 345 were male and 363 female; and including 36 illegimate births, 20 male and 16 female. The birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (mid 1948) was 16.0 compared with 18.9 in 1947.

The number of births showed a fall of 79 births compared with 1947, a decrease of 2.9 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales also showed a decline from 20·5 to 17.9.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during 1948, were 421, a decrease of 9 over the previous year. The death rate was 9.5 per 1,000 population compared with 10.3 in 1947. The death rate continues to compare favourable with the death rate for England and Wales which was 10.8.

Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 births (live and still) was nil compared with 2.50 in 1947, and 3.78 in 1946. The figures for England and Wales was 1.02. It is satisfactory to record that no maternal deaths occurred throughout the year and it is hoped that this position will continue.

Infant Mortality.

There were 23 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 32 per 1,000 live births and a decrease of 4 on the figure for 1947. The rate for England and Wales was 34 per 1,000 live births.

Still Births.

The number of still births during 1948, was 27 of which were 17 male and 10 female. This is equivalent to a rate of 36 per 1,000 total live and still births. Three of these still births were illegitimate.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT, 1948.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
Typhoid Fever...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	5	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	1
Measles	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer	39	32
Diabetes	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	22	32
Heart Diseases	65	54
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	4
Bronchitis	7	5
Pneumonia	11	5
Other respiratory diseases	2	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—
Appendicitis	—	2
Other digestive diseases	6	4
Nephritis	8	8
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—
Premature birth	4	2
Congenital causes	8	2
Suicide	2	—
Road traffic accidents...	6	3
Other violent causes	6	2
All other causes	31	18
Total...	230	191

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

	M.	F.		
Legitimate	15	7		
Illegitimate	—	1		
			15	8

Still Births:—

Legitimate	15	9		
Illegitimate	2	1		
			17	10

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Pathological Reports.

Speciments of a simple nature, throat swabs, etc., are sent for examination at the E.M.S. Pathological Laboratory at the Ormskirk County Hospital. All other speciments rae sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

One hundred and sixty-two nose and throat swabs were taken of which 28 were found to be positive for Bacillus Diphtheria.

Eleven speciments of faeces were examined, of which ten proved to be negative, but one positive for Bacillus Aertrycke.

One Vaginal Swab was tested for the presence of Bacillus Gonococci but proved negative.

One specimen of blood tested for the presence of typhoid group, one blood culture which was sterile, 2 blood cultures which shewed increased white cell count.

One Cerebro-spinal Fever examination which was normal.

4 Urine examinations, of which three contained B. Coli and one was sterile.

Hospital Accommodation.

There are no General Hospitals in the District, but patients are accommodated in the Ormskirk General Hospital, the Ormskirk County Hospital, which has a Maternity Block, or in the hospitals of the adjacent towns of Liverpool, Southport and Preston.

The Council maintained their own Isolation Hospital at Holly House, Aughton, but owing to the general reduction in cases of Infectious Disease throughout the country in recent years, it was decided to close this hospital and place it on a care and maintenance basis in August, 1946. At the same time an arrangement was made whereby cases of Infectious Disease from the West Lancashire Rural District would be admitted to the Ormskirk Isolation Hospital where necessary. It is now possible that the Aughton Hospital buildings will be taken over by the County Council and used as a Residential Home for Children.

A full account of the work carried out by the West Lancashire Isolation Hospital over 50 years was contained in the Annual Report for 1946.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, and after 5th July, 1948, all the Hospitals were taken over by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board who became responsible for the administration.

AMBULANCE.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council after 5th July, 1948. However the existing facilities continued in West Lancashire up to the end of 1948, although the responsibility for cost was accepted by the County Council.

The Local Authority provided ambulance facilities for infectious cases only. The Ormskirk General Hospital and also the County Hospital at Ormskirk each provide ambulances for accidents and general hospital cases. Ambulances belonging to the Merseyside Hospitals' Council also operate in the area.

The Parishes formerly served by Bootle and which are outside the area served from Ormskirk, now derive their ambulance facilities from the Non-County Borough of Crosby.

The Northern Parishes are catered for by voluntary ambulance organisations in the townships of North Meols, Tarleton and Hesketh Bank.

SUMMARY OF ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FROM THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Ormskirk Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Admissions from West Lancashire.

Scarlet Fever	14
Diphtheria (including carriers)	10
Tonsilitis	5
Measles	3
Rheumatic Fever	1
Food Poisoning	1
Whooping Cough	1
Chickenpox	1
Influenza Adenitis	1
Total ...	37

These admissions were from the following townships:—

Aintree	...	One case of Diphtheria.
Aughton	...	One case of Chickenpox, one case of Food Poisoning, One case of Scarlet Fever.
Altcar ...	...	One case of Scarlet Fever.
Bispham	...	Three cases of Scarlet Fever.

Ford	... ...	One case of Measles.
Halsall	... ...	One case of Scarlet Fever.
Maghull	...	Five cases of Scarlet Fever, five cases of Diphtheria Carriers, two cases of Diphtheria, one case of Mild Diphtheria, one case of Measles, two cases of Tonsilitis, one case of Whooping Cough.
Netherton	...	One case of Diphtheria, one case of Scarlet Fever, Two cases of Tonsilitis.
North Meols	...	One case of Influenza Adenitis.
Rufford	...	One case of Tonsilitis.
Scarisbrick	...	Two cases of Scarlet Fever, one case of Measles, one case of Tonsilitis.
Tarleton	...	One case of Rheumatic Fever.

The outside work in connection with the Infectious Diseases Ambulance was as follows:—

For West Lancashire Rural District.

Journeys with ambulance for patient	Nil
Journeys with ambulance for bedding	199
Houses attended for disinfection	105
No. of times disinfector used	72
Rooms sprayed	324
Schools sprayed	—
Articles stoved	1,846
Fumigation	1

For Skelmersdale Urban District.

Journeys with ambulance for patient	Nil
Journeys with ambulance for bedding	9
Houses attended for disinfection	5
No. of times disinfector used	6
Rooms sprayed	10
Articles stoved	64

DEATHS IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT.

Percentage of Deaths in Age Groups.

Five Year Period	Under 5 Years	AT AGES—YEARS 5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	
1926-1930 (Average)	8.85	1.85	2.5	4.0	4.5	7.4	9.8	20.7	27.6	12.7	100
1931-1935 (Average)	11.34	0.9	2.78	3.46	4.48	6.24	11.34	19.92	25.14	12.4	100
1936-1940 (Average)	9.58	1.2	1.8	3.58	4.62	7.46	11.56	21.26	24.82	14.12	100
1941-1945 (Average)	8.48	1.0	1.7	3.0	4.8	6.86	10.8	21.2	26.6	15.4	100
1946	9.5	0.2	0.5	1.7	5.3	6.2	12.6	20.3	26.4	17.3	100
1947	7.5	0.7	2.6	2.1	4.6	6.0	12.6	15.3	30.9	17.7	100
1948	5.93	0.23	1.42	1.16	3.32	4.51	10.45	26.36	28.36	28.50	100

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN TOWNSHIPS.

The following table shows the population, number of births and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 in each township in the Rural District for the year 1948:—

TOWNSHIPS.	Estimated middle of Population 1948.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.	
		No. of Births.	Rate per 1,000.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
Aintree	2,625	40	15.2	13	4.9
Altcar	686	6	8.7	7	10.2
Aughton ...	3,485	50	14.3	37	10.6
Bickerstaffe ...	1,478	25	16.9	21	14.2
Bispham ...	237	4	16.8	5	21.0
Downholland ...	620	7	11·2	5	8.0
Ford	1,152	15	13.0	15	13.0
Halsall	2,221	29	13.0	24	18.0
Hesketh Bank ...	1,850	28	15.1	19	10.2
Ince Blundell ...	528	4	7.5	2	3.7
Lydiate	1,641	32	19.5	30	18.2
Maghull ...	9,874	188	19.0	70	7.1
Melling	1,536	26	17.8	14	9.1
Netherton ...	3,668	61	16.6	36	9.8
North Meols ...	2,853	52	28.2	24	8.4
Rufford	909	14	15.4	18	19.8
Scarisbrick ...	3,138	46	14.6	27	8.6
Sefton	460	7	15.2	6	13.0
Simonswood	337	4	11.8	6	17.7
Tarleton ...	2,985	48	16.3	29	9.7
Thornton ...	1,727	22	12.7	13	7.5
Whole District .	44,010	708	16.0	421	9.5

Various District Nursing Associations throughout West Lancashire have for many years provided District Nurses and undertook much valuable work. With the passing of the National Health Service Act, 1946, however, District Nursing Associations were taken over by the Lancashire County Council on the 5th July, 1948.

It will be opportune at this juncture to acknowledge the work that has been done for so many years by the District Nursing Associations and the help that they have been to the people of West Lancashire.

Particulars of Work Done by the various Nursing Associations operating in the West Lancashire Rural District, 1st January, 1948, to 5th July, 1948.

ASSOCIATIONS.	CASES NURSED.					VISITS.			TOTAL.	
	Midwifery	Maternity	Medical	Surgical	T.B.	General Nursing	Ante-Natal	T.B.	Cases	Visits
Eccleston and District (including the Parish of Bispham)	2	1	3	9	—	320	23	—	15	343
Formby District (including the Parishes of Altcar and Downholland	1	2	16	4	—	226	9	—	23	235
Great Crosby & District (including the Parish of Ince Blundell) ...	3	2	7	5	—	424	50	—	17	474
Rainford & District (including the Parish of Bickerstaffe)	6	3	7	6	—	371	46	—	22	417
Scarisbrick District	—	—	29	51	—	1172	—	—	80	1172
Sefton & District (including Aintree, Netherton, Sefton, Lunt, Thornton and part of Ford)	17	14	133	112	—	5173	274	—	276	5447
Tarleton and District (including Tarleton, Rufford and Hesketh Bank)	42	16	114	273	—	6950	949	—	445	7899
Kirkby, Lydiate & Melling (Parishes Lydiate, Melling & Simonswood)	11	5	18	10	—	590	70	—	44	660
Aughton District	—	—	53	45	1	—	88	—	88	2316
Maghull District	—	—	95	19	—	3778	—	120	115	3898
North Meols District	1	—	58	49	—	2981	—	—	108	2981

MIDWIVES RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

Miss I. K. Paisley, c/o "Brooklands," Carr Cross, Southport Road, Scarisbrick	S.C.M.
Mrs. E. Bibby, 160, Northway, Maghull	S.C.M.
Miss M. A. Bond, New Street, Halsall	S.C.M.
Mrs. J. E. MacKellar, Finger Post Cottage, Liverpool Road, Aughton	S.C.M.
Miss Ruth Freeman, District Nurse, "Burnside," Gorse Lane, Tarleton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss A. Vidler, 94, Park Lane, Netherton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss G. Johnson, District Nurse, "Burnside," Gorse Lane, Tarleton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss A. V. Irwin, 137, Liverpool Road South, Maghull	S.C.M.
Miss B. Jackson, 94, Park Lane, Netherton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss J. McGuinnes, 2, Parkfield Avenue, Netherton ...	S.C.M., S.R.N.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—NURSING HOMES.

The Misses Mary A. Wharton and E. J. Jones, 32, Gainsborough Avenue, Maghull	Two maternity or medical cases.

VACCINATION OFFICERS

January 1st, 1948, to July 5th, 1948.

Name.	District.
N. Bottomley, 5, Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale.	Bickerstaffe, Bispham, Scarisbrick, Simonswood.
N. C. Lyon, 74, Wigan Road, Ormskirk.	Altcar, Aughton, Downholland, Halsall, Lydiate, Maghull, Melling.
J. Webster, 2, Derby Street, Ormskirk.	Hesketh Bank, North Meols, Rufford, Tarleton.
H. D. Plevin, 43, Crosby Road South, Waterloo.	Ince Blundell, Thornton, Sefton including Lunt, Ford, Netherton and Aintree.

PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr. H. W. F. Croft, Lynton, Tarleton.	Bispham, Hesketh Bank, Rufford, Tarleton, North Meols.
Dr. R. G. R. Burrows, Sefton View, Maghull.	Downholland, Lydiate, Maghull, Melling, Simonswood.
Dr. W. P. O'Regan, Mansion House, Ormskirk.	Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Halsall, Scarisbrick.
Dr. A. B. Sykes, Ashurst, Formby.	Altcar.
Dr. W. F. Jones, 255, County Road, Walton, Liverpool.	Aintree.
Dr. J. F. Webb, Newlyn, Crosby Road North, Seaforth.	Ince Blundell, Thornton.
Dr. W. H. Nowak, 2, Litherland Park, Litherland.	Sefton including Lunt, Ford, Netherton.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Vaccination ceased to be compulsory. Therefore, the duties of the Vaccination Officers and Public Vaccinators ceased from July 5th. Vaccination is now carried out at the desire of a patient either by his General Practitioner or at one of the County Clinics.

SCHOOL CLINICS

Litherland Clinic, Linacre Road.

Monday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Dental.
	2— 4 p.m.	Dental.
	2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Rutherford and two nurses.
Tuesday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments.
	2— 4 p.m.	Dental.
Wednesday ...	2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Rutherford and two nurses.
Thursday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Ophthalmic.
	9·30—12 a.m.	Orthopaedic. Nurse every Thursday. Surgeon attends second Thursday of each month only.
	2— 4 p.m.	Ante-natal. Dr. Mayeur and two nurses.
Friday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments. Nurse only for dressings.

Maghull Clinic, Parish Institute.

Monday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments. Nurse only for dressings.
Thursday ...	2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Rutherford and two nurses.
Friday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments. Dr. Rutherford attends alternate weeks.

Ormskirk Clinic, General Hospital.

Monday ...	...9·30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments. Dr. Wilson attends.
	2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Hailwood attends.
Tuesday ...	... a.m. & p.m.	Orthopaedic. Nurse every Thursday. Surgeon attends second Tuesday, p.m., in each month only.
Wednesday	...9·30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments. Nurse only for dressings.
Friday ...	... a.m. & p.m.	Dental.
	9·30—12 a.m.	Ante-natal. Dr. Mayeur and Dr. Hailwood.

Lathom and Burscough, Old Council Offices, Lathom.

Thursday ...	2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Wilson attends alternate weeks.

Banks Clinic, Gravel Lane, Banks.

Wednesday ...	10—12 a.m.	Minor ailments (Alternate weeks only) —Dr. Wilson.
	2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre (alternate weeks only)—Dr. Wilson.
Friday	a.m. & p.m.	Dental.

Jubilee Hall, Aintree.

Tuesday	2— 5 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Rutherford attends alternate weeks.

The following is a list of Schools in the district:—

Division No.	SCHOOL.	School No.	No. of children normally Resident in the District attending the school.
6	Hesketh-with-Becconsall C.E. ...	28	86 infants and jniors.
6	North Meols, Banks Primitive Methodist	24	159 infants mixed.
6	North Meols, St. Stephens ...	25	115 infants mixed.
6	Tarleton Mere Brow C.E. ...	26	40 infants mixed
6	Tarleton Council		29 infants, 74 juniors, 116 seniors.
6	Tarleton C.E.	27	66 infants, 68 juniors.
16	Halsall Central School	30	136 juniors and seniors.
16	Haskayne C.E.	31	15 infants and juniors.
16	Bickerstaffe C.E.	13	102 infants and juniors.
16	Maghull C.E.	16	470 infants and juniors
16	Maghull Secondary Modern ...		427 seniors.
16	Maghull St. George's R.C. ...	17	171 infants and mixed.
16	Maghull Dover Road Infants ...		295 infants and juniors.
16	Melling (Aughton) R.C.	14	45 infants and juniors.
16	Melling C. of E.	15	105 infants and juniors.
16	Scarisbrick St. Mark's C.E. ...	32	31 infants, 17 juniors.
16	Scarisbrick St. Mary's R.C. ...	33	137 infants and mixed.
16	Scarisbrick Council	34	70 infants and juniors
16	Aughton Christ Church	20	110 infants and mixed.
16	Aughton Parochial	21	49 infants, 60 juniors.
16	Lydiate R.C.	19	82 infants and mixed.
16	Lydiate C.E.	18	91 infants and mixed.
16	Rufford C.E.	22	58 infants and mixed.
16	Rufford Holmeswood Methodist	23	39 infants and mixed.
16	Bispham Free Grammar	24	52 infants and mixed.
16	Aintree Temporary Council ...		229 infants and juniors.
17	Ince Blundell R.C.		54 infants and mixed.
17	Netherton R.C.		51 infants and mixed.
17	Netherton Temporary Counciil		433 infants and juniors.
19	Sefton Council		24 infants and mixed.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year owing to the presence of infectious disease.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The surfacing of playgrounds is the most urgent improvement required in many of the Schools in West Lancashire since many are subject to flooding. They become muddy in winter and dusty in summer. This has been a constant complaint for many years and it is to be regretted that there is little done to improve the condition of playgrounds in general.

The building of two new Schools has been commenced. One is in Magnull, the Hudson Junior and Infants County School, the first part of which was opened on the 2nd May, 1949, enabling the temporary accommodation in shops to be given up and the other new Council School in Aintree to replace one destroyed during the War.

Free milk is provided in all Schools. The source of supply is regularly checked and samples taken by the Health Department. The milk has been satisfactory and is a great advantage to the health of the children or at least to those who take it. I am surprised, and regret to find that only approximately 60 per cent. of the children in Schools throughout the District drink the milk although it is freely available, and I would strongly recommend parents to insist that their children do drink their milk at School.

There has been little change in the condition of the Schools, except as follows:—

Hesketh-with-Becconsall C.E.

Has been decorated internally.

Tarleton Mere Brow C.E.

Has been painted externally and improved equipment for meals installed. The playground requires re-surfacing.

Bickerstaffe C.E.

Improved facilities for dinners has been provided.

Magnull C.E. Junior School.

This large School continues to increase although the recent addition of four classrooms has relieved some of the congestion. On the other hand the toilet facilities are inadequate and increased provision should be made at an early date. The playground requires re-surfacing.

St. Mark's C.E., Scarisbrick.

Some repairs to fabric have been carried out.

Scarisbrick Council School.

A new heating stove has been installed and the playground has been re-surfaced.

Aughton Christ Church.

Improvement in kitchen equipment for dinners has been provided.

Aughton Parochial School.

Part of the playground has been r-surfaced, but a further part still requires to be done. The kitchen and dining arrangements are inadequate.

Section C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS.

	Smallpox.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Poliomye-litis.	Malaria.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.
Cases	—	—	47	421	5	1	1	1	—	—	227	8	46
Deaths	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution, and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1948.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Removed to Hospital
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	6	7	5	3	2	5	6	3	3	1	3	3	47	14
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	8	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	5	5	—	4	4	3	1	1	1	3	1	17	45	Not known
Measles	23	9	17	68	38	27	15	19	59	44	35	67	421	2
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	2	1	—	7	16	36	20	47	71	26	227	1
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Monthly Totals	37	24	26	78	45	43	40	61	85	97	110	113	759	23

Table showing the number of cases of Infectious Disease occuring during the year in each township in the Rural District and the number of deaths.

1948	Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Whooping Cough		Erysipelas		Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia		Cerebro-Spinal Fever		Diarrhœa		Measles		Tuberculosis		TOTALS	
TOWNSHIP	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
Aintree	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	3	—	78	—
Altcar	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	4
Aughton ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	7	1	57	2
Bickerstaffe ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—
Bispham ...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Downholland .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Ford	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	2	1	13	2
Halsall	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	4	1	30	2
Hesketh Bank .	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	1	—	32	1
Ince Blundell .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	—
Lydiate	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	1	13	2
Maghull ...	1	5	5	—	2	1	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	32	—	7	2	103	9
Melling ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	62	—	5	1	86	1
Netherton ...	2	2	7	—	1	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	4	1	53	3
North Meols...	7	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	32	—	2	1	54	2
Rufford ...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	11	1
Scarisbrick ...	4	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—				
Sefton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—
Simonswood ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—
Tarleton ...	14	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97	—	1	1	127	1
Thornton ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	—	25	1
TOTALS ...	45	16	47	—	5	1	—	—	227	—	8	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	421	—	52	17	784	35

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1948

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all Ages	Total Cases Notifed — Years: Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total Deaths	Hospital: Total Cases removed to Hospital	Hospital: Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	47	—	—	1	—	4	27	9	1	5	—	—	—	—	14	—
Diphtheria	5	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	5	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	421	13	47	49	70	79	151	4	3	4	1	—	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	227	11	27	40	29	46	62	5	1	2	3	1	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	45	—	2	—	2	4	6	4	1	4	7	8	7	16	unknown	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerbro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorum...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	24	4	4	1	15	16	8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	—	1	1	2	4	3	4	—	1	1	—	—	2	5	—
TOTALS	811	26	77	91	104	138	250	29	7	43	17	16	11	34	45	21

DIPHTHERIA.

Central Clinics are held at certain of the schools in the Rural District where children from the neighbouring schools attend for immunisation treatment, together with pre-school children from the surrounding districts. In addition, a monthly clinic is held at the Out Patients Department, Ormskirk General Hospital, a monthly clinic at the Maghull Parish Institute and a fortnightly clinic at the Banks School Clinic.

Only five cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year with one death. Diphtheria is now almost negligible throughout the District. The death of one child was attributed to West Lancashire since the residence of the parent was in Maghull. The child was ten weeks old, born in a Liverpool Nursing Home and transferred from there to a Liverpool Isolation Hospital and died. It is thus only nominally a West Lancashire death.

DIPHTHERIA IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT, 1937-48.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases	33	34	37	20	40	25	12	12	7	6	16	5
Deaths	1	2	5	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Total Number of Children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to and including 31st December, 1948.

	Age Groups 0-4 years.	5-14 years.	Total under 15 years.
Total Population in Age Group	3,612	5,949	9,561
Total Number Immunised ...	1,258	4,369	5,627
Percentage	34.8%	73.4%	58.8%

DIPHTHERIA INCIDENCE DURING 25 YEARS.

5 Year Periods	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up	TOTAL at all ages
1921-1925 ...	—	—	1	5	2	16	13	3	5	2	1	—	48
1926-1930 ...	1	3	5	3	9	57	31	13	17	3	2	1	145
1931-1935 ...	—	3	3	3	3	25	28	19	15	5	—	1	105
1936-1940 ...	—	—	4	9	6	48	27	13	18	3	1	—	129
1941-1945 ...	2	1	2	5	10	30	10	8	15	3	3	—	89
1946	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	6
1947	—	—	2	—	—	5	5	2	—	2	—	—	16
1948	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	5
PERCENTAGES													
1921-1925 ...	—	—	2	14	4	34	28	6	10	4	2	—	
1926-1930 ...	1	2	3	2	6	39	21	9	12	2	2	—	
1931-1935 ...	—	3	3	3	3	25	26	18	15	5	—	1	
1936-1940 ...	—	—	3	7	5	37	21	10	14	2	1	—	
1941-1945 ...	2	1	2	6	12	33	12	10	16	3	3	—	
Average 25 years	0.6	1.2	2.6	5.6	6	33.2	21.6	10.6	13.4	3.2	1.6	0.4	
1946	—	—	17	17	—	—	32	—	17	17	—	—	
1947	—	—	12.5	—	—	31.2	31.3	12.5	—	12.5	—	—	
1948	20	—	—	—	20	20	20	—	20	—	—	—	100

Particulars of Work Done in Connection with Immunisation against Diphtheria since the Commencement of the Scheme in November, 1932, to 31st December, 1948.

School	Year	Number of acceptances	Total on Register.	% of children actually in school 31.12.48 who have completed course.	Received complete diphtheria course.	Diphtheria course not completed.	No. of children given booster dose.	Remarks.
Aintree Council ...	1940-47	163			151	11	133	3 absent for and 2 refused 2nd injection.
	1948		229	80.0	12	—	42	
Aughton Christ Church	1932-47	225			220	5	37	4 positive, 1 left before completing, 1 not allowed to complete course, 2 absent for 2nd injection.
	1948		110	90.2	6	—	26	
Aughton Parochial .	1932-47	135			126	9	75	1 positive, 3 absent for and 1 refused 2nd injection.
	1948		109	75.0	2	—	17	
Banks P. Methodist	1932-47	146			127	19	45	4 treated previously by us.
	1948		159	67.9	1	—	15	
Banks St. Stephens	1932-47	110			104	5	25	2 positive, 3 treated previously by us.
	1948		115	73.4	1	—	3	
Bickerstaffe C.E. ...	1932-47	263			149	14	70	2 positive, 1 refused and 2 absent for 2nd injection.
	1948		102	89.2	6	—	25	
Bispham Free Grammar	1932-47	101			94	7	32	
	1948		52	69.2	—	—	7	
Halsall Central ...	1932-47	325			300	25	95	2 positive, 2 absent for and 1 refused 2nd injection 1 parent refused 2nd injection.
	1948		136	95.6	1	—	30	
Haskayne C.E. ...	1932-47	57			53	3	6	
	1948	6	15	86.6	—	—	1	
Hesketh Bank C.E.	1932-47	131			126	5	25	1 absent for 2nd injection.
	1948		86	86.0	5	1	23	1 failed to complete.
Holmeswood Meth.	1932-47	68			63	3	16	3 treated previously by us.
	1948		39	95.0	—	—	7	
Ince Blundell R.C.	1932-47	93			82	11	34	1 absent for and 2 parents refused 2nd injection.
	1948		54	65.0	—	—	3	
Lydiate R.C.	1932-47	113			103	10	38	3 positive, 1 treated previously by us.
	1948		82	64.6	2	—	11	
Lydiate C.E.	1932-47	116			112	4	31	
	1948		91	68.2	1	—	5	
Maghull R.C. ...	1932-47	179			157	22	89	6 absent for 2nd injection, 1 treated previously by us.
	1948		171	93.3	5	—	—	

Maghull C.E. Junior	1932-47 1948	167 13	470	89.0	637 4	31 1	232 48	10 positive, 5 absent for and 1 refused 2nd injection. 1 failed to complete.
Maghull Secondary Modern	1932-47 1948	89	427	94.6	82 —	7 —	164 30	2 absent for 2nd injection, 17 treated previously by us, 1 treated in hospital.
Maghull Dover Road	1932-47 1948	102	295	90.0	100 12	2 1	210 44	1 absent for and 1 refused 2nd injection, 4 treated previously by us. 1 failed to complete.
Melling C.E.	1932-47 1948	203	105	73.3	190 7	13 —	62 25	3 absent for 2nd injection, 2 treated previously by us.
Melling R.C.	1932-47 1948	96 5	45	93.3	89 4	7 —	62 8	6 absent for 2nd injection, 1 treated previously by us.
Netherton R.C. ...	1932-47 1948	158	51	84.3	146 1	12 —	27 11	6 positive, 3 absent for 2nd injection, 2 treated previously by us.
Netherton Council...	1932-47 1948	131	433	52.4	117 11	9 —	110 61	5 not treated as they were Schick negative, 3 absent for and 1 left before 2nd injection, 4 treated previously by us.
Rufford C.E.	1932-47 1948	96	58	79.6	90 4	5 —	25 8	1 positive, 1 had no injections, 6 treated previously by us, 2 absent for 2nd injection.
Scarisbrick Council	1932-47 1948	66	70	95.5	63 1	3 —	24 11	2 absent for 2nd injection.
Scarisbrick St. Mark's	1932-47 1948	106	31	52.1	97 5	9 —	6 13	2 absent for 2nd injection.
Scarisbrick St. Mary's R.C.	1932-47 1948	187	137	70.0	171 5	16 —	40 33	1 positive, 8 absent for 2nd injection, 9 treated previously by us.
Sefton Council ...	1932-47 1948	123	24	87.6	110 2	8 —	17 5	2 had no injections, 3 treated previously by us, 1 absent for 2nd injection.
Tarleton Mere Brow	1932-47 1948	100	40	75.0	86 —	13 —	22 6	1 treated after preliminary test, 3 absent for 2nd injection, 1 treated previously by us.
Tarleton C.E. ...	1932-47 1948	161	40	85.8	154 1	8 —	39 35	4 treated previously by us, 3 absent for 2nd injection.
Tarleton Council ...	1932-47 1948	231	219	77.6	206 —	22 —	81 50	1 immunised after preliminary test, 2 positive, 1 treated previously by us, 1 parent refused 2nd injection, 2 absent for 2nd injection.
TOTALS...	1932-47 1948	4741 24	3995	80.7	4405 99	320 3	1841 593	11 immunised after preliminary test, 5 had no injections, 35 positive, 69 absent for 2nd injection, 2 left before and 11 refused 2nd injection, 64 treated previously by us, 1 treated in hospital.

	Children. Pre-School	Children attending Schools elsewhere.	Scarlet Fever Patients in hospital.	Adults.
1932-47	3,012	106	92	10
1948	445	—	14	—

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS COMPLETELY IMUNISED — 11,297

DIPHTHERIA.

Number of persons, in age groups, completely immunised, or found to be Schick Negative:—

Age	* 1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	
Under 1 Year	—	—	3	2	3	1	1	2	14	41	30	22	17	25	85	58	
1 Year	—	4	6	12	18	13	7	10	88	221	203	181	205	175	186	293	Total under 5 years end of 1948
2 „	2	6	3	10	22	21	14	24	101	173	71	47	76	36	34	51	
3 „	8	4	14	11	15	18	10	33	97	137	55	17	23	23	28	24	1258
4 „	12	13	11	6	38	30	21	24	102	144	63	26	13	16	17	19	
5 „	63	86	43	72	103	75	36	127	189	225	139	87	28	24	33	26	
6 „	78	41	22	60	63	71	32	81	157	124	90	51	19	13	17	41	Total 5-9 years at end of of 1948.
7 „	67	41	14	40	46	46	16	57	111	66	51	9	11	12	11	5	
8 „	76	28	21	36	41	40	12	38	68	57	52	14	5	7	12	5	1986
9 „	80	30	18	15	33	29	16	28	69	50	31	7	6	5	11	4	
10 „	59	27	22	22	17	30	12	35	63	38	29	9	3	1	11	3	
11 „	75	19	22	15	22	18	11	11	45	29	36	3	7	4	3	2	Total 10-14 years at end of 1948.
12 „	58	23	9	19	16	26	5	5	39	31	28	3	3	1	2	2	
13 „	44	28	11	10	5	7	3	13	36	12	14	5	2	4	1	—	2413
14 „	8	3	3	4	2	1	—	12	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	
15 years and over	1	—	1	5	1	2	2	7	2	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	Total over 15 years at end of 1948. 3127
Total	631	353	223	339	445	428	198	507	1181	1352	892	483	420	346	453	533	8,784

* November, 1932, to December, 1933.

SCARLET FEVER.

Forty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

All cases were of a mild type, but it was necessary to remove 14 of them to hospital. The general policy is to remove to hospital such cases of Scarlet Fever as are living under overcrowded conditions, or in such circumstances that they become conveyors of infection through inefficient isolation.

The following table shows the incidence and mortality from Scarlet Fever during the past ten years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases	103	38	50	12	66	75	121	57	33	47
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MEASLES.

During the year 421 cases of Measles were notified. This was an increase on the figure for 1947 due to mild epidemics of the disease in April and again in December.

The following table indicates the incidence and fatality of this disease during the past ten years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases	37	560	292	251	178	180	138	139	189	421
Deaths	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WHOOPING COUGH.

Two hundred and twenty-seven cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year compared with 189 in 1947 and 100 in 1946.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There was one notification received during the year, no deaths were recorded.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Smallpox occured during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Forty-five cases of pneumonia were notified during 1948, a decrease of 17 on the figure for 1947. Deaths from pneumonia numbered 16.

There are no facilities locally for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera, such work being of necessity performed in one of the large towns adjacent to the District.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Only one case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis was recorded during the year.

It will be recalled that during 1947, that there was an epedimic of this disease throughout the country, and that ten cases occurred in West Lancashire. These cases were recently followed up by the Health Department and it is interesting to record the results of these ten cases a year later. The following table shows that on a whole the results have been reasonably satisfactory.

(1)	Fully recovered	6
(2)	Slight symptoms without paralysis	1
(3)	Paralysis (one limb only)	3
(4)	Paralysis (two or more limbs)	Nil
(5)	Deaths	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

Summary of notifications under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930) received during 1948:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	7	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	7	7	—	—	1	3	—	—
35—45	3	1	—	1	1	4	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	2	0	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Totals ..	20	15	8	9	5	10	1	1
	35		17		15		2	

The Urban Districts of Ormskirk and Skelmersdale and the Rural District of West Lancashire are included in the County Dispensary Area No. 5, with Headquarters at the Dispensary, "Ellesmere," Crosby Road North, Waterloo. Dispensary Sessions are held there on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. X-ray examinations are performed on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Evening consultations may be arranged by appointment. Dr. C. Berry is the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the area, and has, as his Staff, two Assistant Tuberculosis Officers and six Tuberculosis Nurses.

A Pulmonary Hospital of 52 beds is situated at Rufford.

NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM 1 BY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HOSPITALS.

	Public Assistance Hospital.	Sanatoria and Pulmonary Hospitals.	Military and General Hospitals.
Pulmonary:			
Male ...	—	11	—
Female ...	—	4	—
Non-Pulmonary:			
Male ...	—	1	—
Female ...	—	2	—

The following table is an analysis of the occupations of the 52 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1948:—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Occupation.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Housewife	—	5	—	1
Occupation unknown ...	3	3	—	—
Child (0-5 years)	—	—	3	2
School child (5—14) ...	—	1	4	6
Marine Engineer	1	—	—	—
Staff Nurse	—	1	—	—
Laundress	—	1	—	—
Caterer	—	1	—	—
Farmworker	3	1	—	—
Naval Rating	1	—	—	—
Aircraft Mechanic	1	—	—	—
Ship's Steward	1	—	—	—
Clerk	1	—	—	—
Mentally Defective (Adult)	1	—	—	—
Seaman	2	—	—	—
Motor Driver	1	—	—	—
Bus Conductor	1	—	—	—
Wireless Operator	1	—	—	—
Electrician	—	—	1	—
Painter	1	—	—	—
Building Contractor ...	1	—	—	—
Confectioner's Apprentice	1	—	—	—
Nursing Sister	—	1	—	—
Displaced Person	—	1	—	—
	20	15	8	9

In twenty houses inspected during the year by reason of tuberculosis inmates, 11 cases were found not to be sleeping in separate bedrooms, and in each of these cases 7 were not even sleeping in separate beds; 9 cases slept in separate bedrooms.

Section D.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.— WATER SUPPLY.

The following table summarises the water supplies in the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

SUMMARY OF WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

PARISHES.	SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC MAIN.								OTHER SUPPLIES		TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES AND PERCENTAGES	
	Upholland Urban District Council	Wigan Rural District Council	Liverpool Corporation	Ormskirk Urban District Council	St. Helens Corporation	Preston Corporation	Southport & Dist. Water Board	TOTALS	Wells & Rainwater, etc.	Increase or Decrease	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES	Percentages
Aintree	—	—	862	—	—	—	—	862	—	—	862	100
Altcar	—	—	—	—	—	—	183	183	25	—	208	87.9
Aughton	—	—	—	—	2	—	1053	1055	4	—1	1059	99.6
Bickerstaffe ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	392	398	5	—	403	98.7
Bispham	—	57	—	1	—	—	—	58	8	—	66	87.9
Downholland ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	181	181	10	—1	191	94.7
Ford	—	—	342	—	—	—	—	342	—	—	342	100
Halsall	—	—	—	—	—	—	603	603	16	—3	619	97.4
Hesketh Bank ...	—	—	—	—	—	561	—	561	2	—	563	99.6
Ince Blundell ...	—	—	127	—	—	—	—	127	2	—	129	98.4
Lydiate	—	—	—	—	—	—	520	520	24	—	544	95.5
Maghull	—	—	—	—	4	—	2766	2770	8	—1	2778	99.7
Melling	—	—	1	—	370	—	—	371	2	—	373	99.4
Netherton	—	—	1017	—	—	—	—	1017	—	—	1017	100
North Meols ...	—	—	—	—	—	6	743	749	18	—	767	97.6
Rufford	—	—	—	315	—	—	—	315	4	—	319	98.7
Scarisbrick ...	—	—	—	6	—	—	791	797	22	—	819	97.3
Sefton	—	—	108	—	—	—	—	108	2	—	110	98.1
Simonswood ...	—	—	—	—	66	—	—	66	2	—	68	97
Tarleton	—	—	—	2	—	821	—	823	3	—	826	99.6
Thornton	—	—	447	—	—	—	—	447	—	—	447	100
Totals	6	57	2904	324	442	1388	7232	12353	157	—6	12510	98.7

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER.

Main Supplies.

Regular samples of all mains water supplies are taken throughout the year in order to ensure the purity of the supply. All samples during 1948 showed a pure and satisfactory water for human consumption.

Other Supplies.

Samples of water have been taken from wells and other local sources of water from time to time. Where these samples, on bacteriological examination, have proved to be unsatisfactory for human consumption, the householder has been advised and action has been taken to require an alternative supply of water to be provided.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following conversions have been effected during the year:—

Privies to Waterclosets	17
Pails to Waterclosets	5
Prives to Pails	11
Fixed Receptacles to Metal Bins	33

SUMMARY OF CONVERSIONS FOR THE YEARS 1939-1948.

Year.		Privies to Water Closets.	Pails to Water Closets.	Privies to Pails.	Ashpits to Bins.
1939	...	29	—	12	41
1940	...	10	2	13	4
1941	...	1	—	—	1
1942	...	5	26	18	19
1943	...	10	1	4	9
1944	...	5	—	32	34
1945	...	4	9	17	4
1946	...	6	—	3	9
1947	...	12	2	5	19
1948	...	17	5	11	33

SANITARY CONVENIENCES, 1948.

	Closet Accommodation.			Refuse Accommodation.		
	W.C.'s	Pails.	Privies.	Dry Ashpits.	Privy Ashpits.	Bins.
Aintree	854	1	7	2	6	853
Altcar	125	16	67	12	65	124
Aughton	938	19	102	9	102	948
Bickerstaffe ...	135	76	191	14	191	201
Bispham	12	6	48	—	48	21
Downholland ...	58	13	118	4	118	63
Ford	322	6	14	—	14	328
Halsall	325	75	219	—	219	400
Hesketh Bank ...	266	136	161	2	159	387
Ince Blundell ...	82	1	46	16	46	56
Lydiate	407	28	103	18	103	417
Maghull	2717	14	47	9	47	2725
Melling	224	25	114	—	106	316
Netherton	1017	—	9	—	9	1017
North Meols ...	340	300	117	—	117	605
Rufford	182	65	70	—	70	246
Scarisbrick	440	96	283	4	283	532
Sefton	64	2	44	3	43	57
Simonswood ...	22	1	45	3	45	18
Tarleton	407	136	283	4	282	540
Thornton	428	1	18	—	17	428
Totals ...	9365	1017	2106	100	2090	10282

TABLE SHOWING MATTERS DEALT WITH BY SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1948.

	Public Health Act, 1936. Section 92.						Water Supply (P.H. Act, 1936).				Food and Drugs Act, 1938.							Factories Act, 1937.				
	Premises Inspected	Nuisances Found	Nuisances Abated	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Reinspections	Sec. 137	Sec. 138	Samples Taken	Cowsheds Inspected	Dairies Inspected	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Milk Samples Taken	Food Premises Visited	Food Condemned	Revisits	Factories Visited	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Schools Visited	Total Number of Visits
Aintree	84	95	87	62	—	106	36	—	—	4	4	—	—	2	5	—	12	14	1	1	1	268
Altcar	3	2	2	2	—	5	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	—	—	—	28
Aughton	51	55	64	37	—	92	62	—	—	18	18	—	—	6	8	—	18	14	4	3	2	289
Bickerstaffe ...	3	6	6	3	—	3	37	—	—	7	7	1	1	3	2	6 lbs.	2	10	—	—	1	75
Bispham	2	2	4	1	—	3	—	—	2	5	5	1	1	—	—		—	5	—	—	1	23
Downholland ...	7	9	9	4	—	10	19	—	—	4	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	1	54
Ford	4	4	5	4	—	4	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	17
Halsall	40	42	50	29	—	57	18	3	—	19	22	2	2	—	4	—	6	15	1	1	1	185
Hesketh Bank ...	24	47	39	24	—	30	26	—	2	20	20	2	2	4	5	8 lbs.	14	17	1	1	1	163
Ince Blundell ...	1	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	2	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	22
Lydiate	19	32	31	12	—	25	27	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	15	1	1	2	93
Maghull	106	205	184	97	—	211	87	1	—	4	10	—	—	8	18	2 cwt. 27 lbs.	64	39	4	4	5	553
Melling	21	191	177	21	—	54	—	—	—	3	3	2	2	1	8	—	16	17	4	4	2	125
Netherton	85	112	100	63	—	117	60	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	8	13 tons 13 cwt. 91 lbs.	54	16	4	3	2	350
North Meols ...	48	83	81	41	—	66	31	1	—	22	26	2	2	7	5	8 lbs.	6	26	2	2	2	240
Rufford	12	13	18	10	—	13	14	—	6	18	18	—	—	3	1		4	12	1	1	2	103
Scarisbrick	52	101	109	50	—	82	8	—	—	12	15	1	1	4	8	—	14	29	2	2	3	227
Sefton	3	3	3	1	—	4	—	—	1	8	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	28
Simonswood ...	2	2	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	7	8	4	4	6	3	—	4	31	1	1	—	63
Tarleton	29	35	34	26	—	35	35	—	—	20	22	2	2	5	8	4 cwt. 10 lbs.	15	45	1	1	3	217
Thornton	8	12	14	5	—	12	—	—	—	14	14	—	—	9	2		2	4	—	1	—	65
Totals	604	1052	1020	494	—	934	472	5	15	199	218	18	18	59	88	14 tons 38 lbs.	235	328	27	26	31	3188

Section E.

HOUSING

The post-war housing programme was marked by the tenanting of the 500th permanent traditional brick built house in December, 1948.

Expectations were exceeded, and at the close of the year 524 houses—exclusive of prefabricated bungalows—were accupied by the tenants.

On several of the sites, this achievement meant that only the first phase had been completed, and work would proceed steadily towards the completion of the estates.

For the first time since 1945, the number of live applications on the housing waiting list shewed signs of diminishing, and it is doubtful whether the number of genuine applications from families residing in the district exceeds one thousand.

As in previous years, the applicants were visited in their homes before presenting their cases to the Council's Selection Committee. This method has proved to be very revealing and many applicants were found to have moved to other districts, whilst in other cases, the circumstances had altered very considerably, sometimes for the worse and sometimes for the better.

Four old cottages situated in close proximity to a new housing site in the hamlet of Haskayne were represented to the Council as being individually unfit for habitation. The owner failed to come forward with a scheme of recondiioning or repair, and demolition orders were made.

The occupants of two of the cottages were rehoused, another one refused—on economic grounds—whilst the remaining cottage was vacant at the time of representation.

Of the ten cottages demolished, the occupants of eight of them were rehoused in new Council houses.

The Rural Housing Survey proceeded steadily throughout the year and much valuable information was gained of housing conditions.

Detailed inspections were completed in five parishes, a summary of which is given:—

Total number of houses inspected up to 31st December, 1948 ...2084

They are placed in the following categories:—

Category 1.	(Fit in all respects)	902
Category 2.	(Requiring minor repairs)	334
Category 3.	(Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement)	591
Category 4.	(Appropriate for re-conditining)	169
Category 5.	(Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost)	88
	Total ...	2084

Categories 3, 4 and 5 represent 40 per cent. of the total, and undoubtedly the most serious defect of all is dampness. Permanent remedies are costly and in many cases it is doubtful whether the structural conditions warrant the expenditure. Hence it is an old custom in the district to apply palliatives which alleviate but do not cure.

Hand in hand with dampness goes lack of amenities. Absence of hot water supply and fixture baths. Lack of adequate drainage, and lack of adequate cooking and washing facilities. Artificial illumination is gradually improving and it is gratifying to note that shallow well water supplies and roof water tanks used for domestic needs are on the point of disappearing for ever.

Section F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK.

During 1948 twenty requests for limewashing of cowsheds had to be made. The work was carried out in all cases.

TABLE 1.

Number of Registered Dairies at end of 1947.	New Applications for Registration.	Registration Refused.	Dairies Removed from Register.	Number of Registered Dairies at end of 1948.
111	3	—	2	112

The total number of registrations is made up as follows:

88 cowkeepers, 8 retail purveyors resident in the district, and 16 retail purveyors of milk non-resident.

Several requests from milk producers were received for information and guidance as to the requirements for obtaining a licence under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936/46. In each case the necessary work involved the alteration and addition to existing buildings.

Milk Sampling.—Fifty-nine samples of milk were taken by the Inspectors during the year.

Forty-five of the samples were for Tuberculosis, 42 of same proved to be negative and three positive.

Fourteen samples were submitted for Methylene Blue reduction. Ten proved satisfactory and four unsatisfactory.

All the examinations were carried out by the Pathological Department of the Liverpool University.

The total number of dairy and cowshed inspections made during the year was 417 and the approximate number of cows 1,350.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1948.

As from July, 1940, this Act has been administered by the County Sanitary Inspectors.

The accompanying figures have been supplied by the County Council:—

	Samples taken.	Prosecutions.
Milk	147	1
Miscellaneous	32	—

BAKEHOUSES.

There are fifteen bakehouses in the district, distributed as follows:—Aughton 2, Bickerstaffe 1, Hesketh Bank 2, Magnull 4, Netherton 2, North Meols 1, Tarleton 3. These premises are kept in a good condition.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The Council employ one Rodent Operative and during the year his work has consisted of re-inspection of premises following the initial survey which commenced in 1944, and the dealing with infestation complaints. These infestations were found to be of minor character and all have been dealt with satisfactorily.

The Council adopted N.S.19 Scheme from the 1st April, 1948, and, therefore, all infestations to private premises are dealt with free of charge.

The treatment of sewers and sewage works have been dealt with by the Surveyor's Department and periodical re-treatment is carried out to prevent serious re-infestation.

The co-operation with the Lancashire War Agricultural Executive Committee continued during the year in respect of treatment of farm lands and ditches adjacent to dwelling houses and factories.

The following particulars reveal the work carried out during the year:—

(1) Number of premises surveyed	1,503
(2) Number of premises found to be infested:—	
(a) Reservoir infestations	—
(b) Major infestations	—
(c) Minor infestations	86
(3) Number of premises treated:—	
(a) Reservoir infestations	—
(b) Major infestations	—
(c) Minor infestations	81

(4) Sewers and Sewage Works.

The Aughton, Thornton and Maghull Sewage Works had periodical treatments during the year. Maintenance treatments have been carried out to the sewers. The six refuse tips received several test baitings during the year and treatment was carried out where necessary.

(5) Agricultural Lands.

Owing to the rural characteristics of the area, co-operation, where necessary has been made with the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

FACTORIES.

The total number of Factories with and without mechanical power is 215. 328 inspections were made and 27 defects were found, 26 being remedied during the year.

1. Inspections.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	87	171	—	—
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	124	153	—	—
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	4	4	—	—
Totals	215	328	—	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars of Defects	No. of Defects. Found	Abated.
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	16	16
Ineffective Drainage (Sec. 6)	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7)		
(a) Insufficient	6	5
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	3
Other offences against the Act	1	1
Totals	27	26

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

PLACE	Weight Condemned. Tons	Cwt.	Qtr.	lbs.
Aintree Cold Stores	13	12	3	12
Various Retail Shops and Food Manufacturing Premises		7	1	26
	14	—	1	10

Inspections carried out at Aintree Cold Stores consisted of Imported meat and meat products.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The Soap Works situated in Park Lane, Netherton, is under good management and the conditions are satisfactory.